

# It's Death, My Darling!

By AMELIA REYNOLDS LONG  
(AP Newswriters)

Chapter 32  
Within an hour the sheriff had come and collected his prisoner, whom he had charged temporarily with attempted murders of Aunt Delphine and myself until the rest of the case against him could be drawn up in proper form. "But what made him do it?" Bobby exclaimed. "I thought he was in love with—"

"She stopped in sudden embarrassment."  
"No, Bobby, not in love with Pick," Amedee corrected. "In love with the fortune he knew she'd inherit once he'd put the rest of us out of the way."  
"Fortune?" Pick repeated, puzzled. "What fortune could I possibly inherit?"  
"None of us ever seriously considered the inheritance for the killin'" he replied, "and so it never occurred to us to ask ourselves who would inherit it once there was no more male heirs. Pick, of course would have been that person."  
"But what is there about the land that makes it worth a fortune?" Beau inquired skeptically.  
"Oh!" Henri put in. "That was why Grandpere sent for me along with Claude and Mr. Duval. He'd found out that Hays was having the place prospected for oil, and since I'm in that line of business I must have wanted to consult me about it."  
"You mean he was counting on Pick's inheriting along with the rest of us?" Beau asked.  
"Partly that," Amedee replied. "But I think he was planning as well to buy out some of the rest of us, probably mortgaging Pick's share to raise the money. That was why he had to keep the whole thing quiet, and why he killed Grandpere when he realized that Grandpere had found out."  
"Exactly what was it that Uncle Emme had found out?" Cousin Jeff inquired. "That's the thing that's been puzzling me from the beginning."  
"I'm not sure," Amedee answered. "But I believe he must have heard some of the dynamite shots. Hays must have tried to convince him that it was all his imagination, and that was why he had to call in a specialist and the psychiatrist. Then either he or Aunt Delphine discovered the red tags."  
"Go on, Dede," I interrupted. "Tell me what those three little strips of red cloth meant, and why everybody acted so mysterious about them!"  
He grinned at me.  
"Those three little red flags are the signs the prospectors put up to mark a spot for dynamiting. Even Claude knew that; which proved to Lewis Hays that Grandpere must have told him about the oil that first evening after he got here."  
Cousin Jeff wisely turned the conversation to other matters.  
"What about Aunt Delphine and Peter?" he asked. "They didn't stand to inherit under the will. What did Hays have against them?"  
"I can explain that," I put in. "He tried to kill me because I walked in before he could do anything to Aunt Delphine; and he wanted to kill her because she knew that he had killed the others."  
"But did she know?" Bobby asked. "I thought she believed in the Loup Garou was behind everything."  
"That's the whole point," I said. "When we thought she was saying 'Loup,' meaning the Loup Garou, what she was really saying was 'Lew—' short for Lewis."  
I had the satisfaction of seeing even Amedee look surprised at that.  
"He'd tried to keep her quiet that morning by threatening to kill you, Dede, if she told," I went on. "But when she got the idea after you'd left for New Orleans that something had happened to you and demanded to see the sheriff, he knew he'd have to silence her permanently. So he slipped out and set fire to the stables to draw the rest of us away."  
Lewis Hays at first protested his innocence of the murders. But when a thorough autopsy upon the bodies of Claude, Lee, and Grandpere

Dumont proved that they had all died of oleander poisoning, he broke down and confessed everything.  
He had suspected about the oil for a long time, and had made arrangements to have the land prospected for dynamite shots—again as Dede and I had guessed—and had started to ask questions. Hays had attempted to convince the old man that he was suffering from hallucinations—had almost succeeded, in fact. But when Grandpere, upon his return from the visit to New Orleans had accidentally come upon some of the prospectors at work and had threatened to discharge Hays for his underhandness, Hays had realized that his only chance to gain future control of the land was to dispose of the old man at once. He had acted accordingly.  
"And then Beau just about ruined everything for him by suggesting that Uncle Raoul and Lee had both committed suicide because they'd discovered there was insanity in the family," I added. "And Pick refused to marry him."  
"I doubt whether Pick would have married him anyway," Amedee declared, "although the colossal conceit of the man had made him take that for granted. However, I imagine that was an even worse blow to him than Grandpere's will."  
"Speaking of marriages," he said, "I still think that idea of mine about making this a combination funeral and wedding was a good one."  
"After all those murders?" I shook my head. "I'd feel that the smoke has cleared away a little, if you have no objection to my saying I'll never do me any good," he said glumly. "Then he brightened.  
"What about Christmas?" he asked. "That's always an auspicious occasion."  
I could think of no objection to that. In fact, I didn't particularly try to find any.

## Ready to Train TV Operators

Eugene (P) — A television transmitter, complete with camera and other equipment, will be available within a few days for training radio students at the Eugene Vocational School, Director William Cox reported Tuesday.  
He said the complex piece of electronic equipment using 90 radio tubes will be used in two fields of instruction: Radio servicing trainees will be provided with a reliable test signal essential for making adjustments on TV receivers, and students in the school's radio communication course will use the equipment in their work.  
Other possible uses of the equipment include training in television studio techniques in such fields as lighting, staging and program production.  
Cox said present plans call for operation of the television transmitter on a "closed-circuit" basis confined to the school building.

**CONSOLIDATION MEETING**  
Eldridge — A public meeting will be held at the Eldridge school at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 12, to discuss proposed consolidation with the Waconda and Mission Bottom schools. The election will be held in the respective schools at 8 p.m. Monday, March 16.

## Carol Curtis Pattern

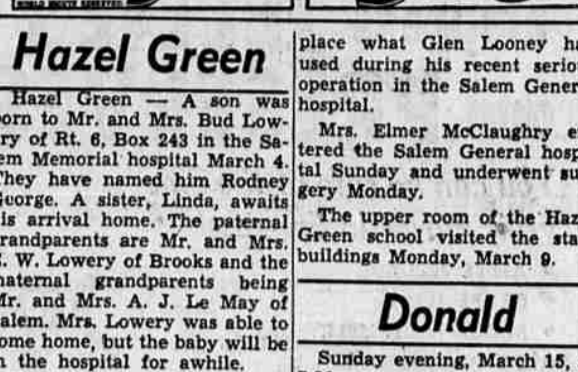


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## BY CARL ANDERSON



**Henry**  
Henry Green — A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bud Lowery of Rt. 6, Box 243 in the Salem Memorial hospital March 4. They have named him Rodney George. A sister, Linda, awaits his arrival home. The paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Lowery of Brooks and the maternal grandparents being Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Le May of Salem. Mrs. Lowery was able to come home, but the baby will be in the hospital for awhile.  
The Hazel Green Mother's club met Thursday night, March 5, at the school to hold a monthly meeting and election of officers.  
Officers unanimously elected were Mrs. Don Zielski as president for a second term and Mrs. Glen Looney as secretary and treasurer for a second term. Mrs. O. P. Cotner was elected vice president for her first term. Holding that office last term was Mrs. Ted Lowery.  
The business meeting was devoted to making final arrangements for the carnival and the voting on the extension of the hot lunch program until May 8.  
A film was shown, "Fears of Children," by Mrs. L. E. Marchant from the Marion County Tuberculosis and Health Assn. from Salem.  
Refreshments of cake and coffee were served in the basement by Mrs. Harry McKibben and Mrs. Clarence Zielski.  
A group of men from this community went to the Red Cross and donated blood to re-

place what Glen Looney had used during his recent serious operation in the Salem General hospital.  
Mrs. Elmer McClaughry entered the Salem General hospital Sunday and underwent surgery Monday.  
The upper room of the Hazel Green school visited the state buildings Monday, March 9.

**Donald**  
Sunday evening, March 15, at 7:30 a group from Cascade college in Portland will present the play, "He Came Seeing" at the Nazarene church in Donald. Rev. Parnell, who has been supplying the Donald church, is a member of the cast.  
Jerry Yergen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Yergen, is home for a few days leave. He arrived last Tuesday and must report to Bremerton, Wash., this week. He has completed his schooling and believes that he will be assigned to the carrier "Essex."  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Young of Hermiston stopped at the E. W. Christopherson home for a short time Monday evening. They were on their way to Roseburg.  
Shawn Peter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Feller, celebrated his birthday last week. Helping him celebrate were Mrs. Eddie Jones, Gary and Carla, Mrs. Virgil Scherette, Vickie and Cheryl, Mrs. Francis Ryan, Mike and Steven and Mrs. Barney Feller, Lia and Jim. Cupcake, ice cream and punch were served.

**Crossword Puzzle**

**ACROSS**

- In addition to
- Alack
- Any monkey
- Fish's breathing organ
- Placed end for end
- Pertaining to oil
- Mentally sound
- New England state; abbr.
- Spirit of a community
- Wrench
- Irregular voter
- Serpent
- Makes an infusion
- Small fish
- Child
- Great desert
- Norse god
- Allow
- Clear profit
- Laterally
- Of the motion of the sea
- Land of a comic opera wizard
- Rendered fat of Sweden
- Snake
- In furious haste
- Greenland settlement
- English letter
- On the ocean
- Refuse

**DOWN**

- One to whom property is leased
- Topaz hummingbird
- Dispatched
- Symbol for arsenic
- Sweats
- Prepare for publication
- Lauder again
- Pure
- Aquatic animals
- Exists
- Garment
- Endues with activity or vitality
- Live
- Evident or manifest
- Tropical fruit
- Dismay
- Enliven
- Center
- Advertisement
- Telegraphed; colloq.
- Small European shark
- Tibetan monk
- Thing; law
- Broad open vessel
- Timid
- Place of the seal; abbr.
- Exclamation

AP Newswriters 8-72

## ROOM & BOARD

By Gene Ahern

